

REMARKS

As a preliminary manner, Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted with Applicant's attorney, B. Joe Kim, on December 2, 2004. The parties discussed claimed dependent information being predetermined in the subject invention. No agreement was reached.

The specification and the drawings have been amended to correct inadvertent errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dev et al. (US 5,559,955). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest that dependent information is predetermined to indicate how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem. In the present invention, as now recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13, the dependent information between any two devices in the network is predetermined by a user by selecting a desired relationship between any two network devices (see Fig. 2 and corresponding description on page 9, lines 1-32, for example).

In the Office Action, the claimed dependent information is indicated to be disclosed in the description of Dev et al. in column 2, lines 45-58. The cited passage states that the "status of the non-communicating network entity is inferred from information as to network entities connected to the non-communicating network entity" (emphasis added). Thus, the cited reference teaches inferring the status of a network entity. In contrast, the dependent information of the present invention is predetermined, which is not disclosed or


suggested by a device which "infers" the status of a network device. Therefore, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 and their respective dependent claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 are allowable over Dev et al. for at least this reason, in addition to the arguments presented in the previously filed Amendment.

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2.

Attachments: (1) Replacement Sheet
(1) Annotated Sheet

FIG.2

